Story by Kyo Shirodaira Art by Eita Mizuno

7

Spiral

THE BONDS OF REASONING

STORY/
KYO
SHIRODAIRA
ART/
EITA
MIZUNO
Spiral
THE BONDS OF REASONING
7

Only SPIRAL

Will tell you

If you're right

CONTENTS

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO	The Sound of the Cookie Crumbling	5
CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE	Ant in a Glass Box	33
CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR	Who Knows What the Heavens Will Bring?	59
CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE	La Campanella	96
CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX	Lest Darkness Fall	137

AFTER ALL, THE ONE WHO'S BEING MADE TO DANCE THE MOST...
...IS...
...ME.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO
THE SOUND OF THE COOKIE CRUMBLING

GIRI (GRIP)
...GROW UP AND QUIT COMPLAIN-ING...!
DON'T COME WHINING TO US ABOUT YOUR PERSECUTION COMPLEX!

NOBODY CAN JUST STOMP ALL OVER THEIR FRIENDSHIP!!
EVEN HE COULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...!
EVEN KIYOTAKA WOULDN'T PIT RUTHERFORD AND KANON AGAINST EACH OTHER!!
KEEP ON TELLING YOURSELF THAT.

BUT BY THE TIME YOU REALIZE IT...
...MY BROTHER WILL HAVE ALREADY STOLEN EVERYTHING FROM YOU.
.....!
...LITTLE BROTHER ...
I DON'T THINK KIYOTAKA-SAMA WOULD MAKE A MISTAKE...
KIYOTAKA-SAMA SAID HE WOULD GIVE US HOPE.
SO HE COULDN'T HAVE MADE KANON-KUN INTO A HUNTER.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WHAT YOU GUYS CALL "HOPE" AND WHAT MY BROTHER CALLS "HOPE" ARE THE SAME THING.
MAYBE YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO DIE AND BE BORN AGAIN.
AND PITTING BEST FRIENDS AGAINST EACH OTHER IS PROBABLY THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO ANNIHILATE THE TWO...
.....!
WHY, YOU .....
SU (TOUCH)
KNOWING KIYOTAKA, I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM.
HE THINKS EVERYTHING HE DOES IS RIGHT.

THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE COSTS...
...OR THE PEOPLE HE HURTS IN THE PROCESS.
IN FACT, IF YOU'RE SAYING KIYOTAKA MEANS TO DESTROY US...
...YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
YOU COULD EVEN SAY THAT KIYOTAKA WAS BORN FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE.
AFTER ALL, WITHIN US...
...LIVES A SIN THAT WILL ONLY LEAD TO DEATH.
BUT RYOUKO-CHAN!!

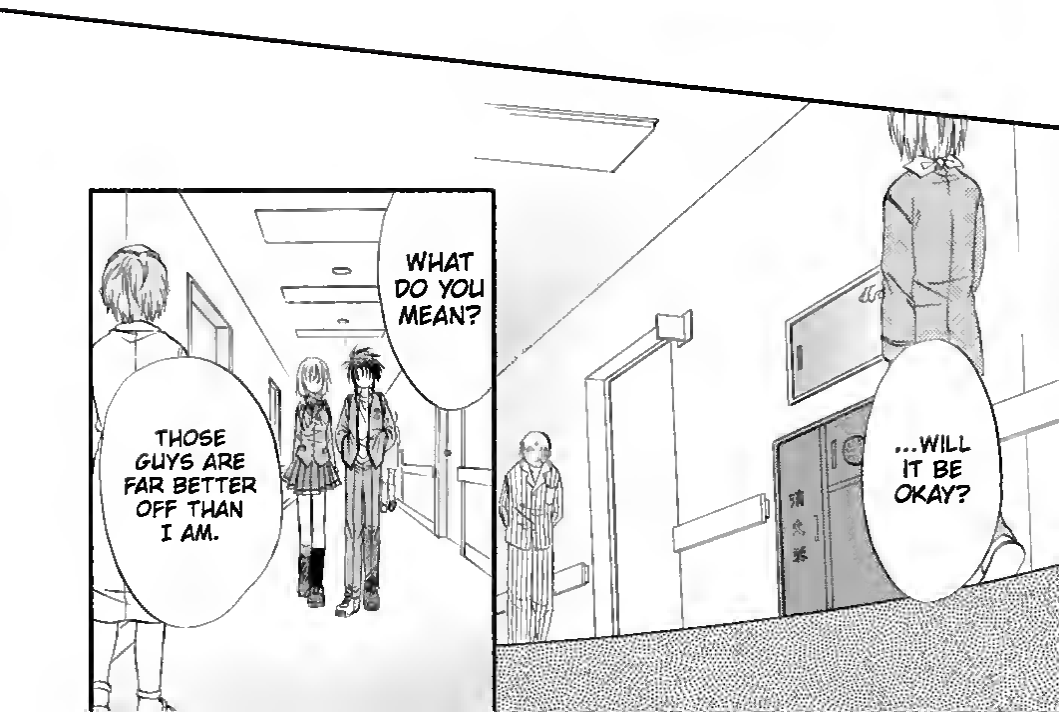
KIYOTAKA-SAMA SAID THERE'S A CHANCE THAT EVEN WE CAN BE SAVED!
HE SAID HE'D GIVE US HOPE!
I KNOW THAT!!
TRUST ME, IF I CAN BE SAVED, THEN I WANT TO BE!
THEN HOW CAN YOU SPEAK AGAINST KIYOTAKA-SAMA!?
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE PATH WE HAVE TO TAKE!!
HE SAID THAT IF WE BELIEVE IN HIM, OUR FATE CAN CHANGE!

SO ALL WE CAN DO...
...IS BELIEVE IN HIM!
SHUT UP!!

WHETHER YOU BELIEVE OR NOT...
...WHAT CAN'T BE CHANGED WON'T CHANGE.
PRAY AND SCREAM ALL YOU LIKE...
...WHEN THE TIME COMES TO BE ROBBED, YOU'LL BE ROBBED.
...LET'S GO.
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE HERE.
OH... OKAY...

...I'LL BELIEVE.
...EVEN SO...
I'LL BELIEVE MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE...
...THAT THERE'S HOPE TO BE HAD.
CHA (CLACK)
...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

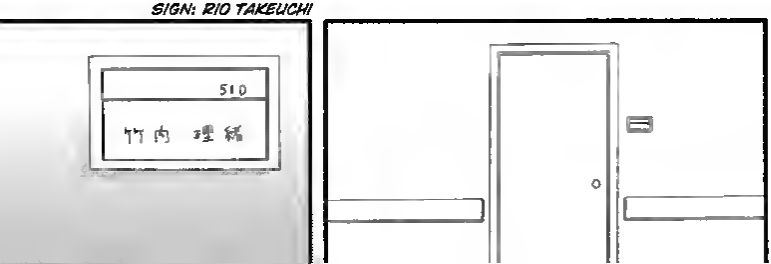
パタン
PATAN (SLAM)
BUT... WHEN YOU GET STABBED IN THE BACK...
...YOU'LL BE HURTING MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THOSE GUYS ARE FAR BETTER OFF THAN I AM.
...WILL IT BE OKAY?

.....
...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S SUFFERING, NARUMI-SAN.
BUT YOU KNOW...
...WHY DO YOU THINK THAT KANON GUY TRANSFERRED TO TSUKIOMI HIGH?
HUH?
IF HE'S SET ON GOING AROUND KILLING PEOPLE ...
...IT'D BE FAR BETTER FOR HIM TO BE FREE.
ASSUMING THE ROLE OF A STUDENT WILL ONLY HINDER HIM WITH ALL THE RESTRICTIONS IT PUTS ON HIS MOVEMENTS.

...YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WONDER WHY.
SO WHY DID HE DECIDE TO BECOME A STUDENT AT OUR SCHOOL?
AND DO YOU THINK IT'S A COINCI-DENCE...
...THAT I'M AT THE SAME SCHOOL AS THE REST OF THEM?
NO.
...DID ANYBODY TELL YOU TO GO TO TSUKIOMI HIGH?
I PICKED IT OUT MYSELF BASED ON THE FACT THAT IT WAS CLOSE TO HOME AND I COULD GET IN EASILY...
THEN IT WAS PURE-COINCI-DENCE, DON'T YOU THINK?
EVEN SO, IT WAS NO COINCI-DENCE.

SIGN: RIO TAKEUCHI



KUSHA (RUFFLE)
KOUSUKE-KUN?
WHAT IS IT?
...WE ALL GOTTA CALM DOWN.

WHATEVER KIYOTAKA'S UP TO...
...OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEM CONCERNING KANON IS THE SAME, SEE?
I KNOW.
BUT IF THIS IS KIYOTAKA-SAMA'S PLAN...
...THE WAY WE HANDLE THIS WILL CHANGE.
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT KIYOTAKA-SAMA WANTING THE BLADE CHILDREN DEAD.
...OUR BATTLE WITH KANON-KUN...
...MAY BE INTENDED TO RAISE THE LITTLE BROTHER TO THE CROSSROADS OF FATE.

...SCRATCH THAT.
YOU REALLY THINK KIYOTAKA WOULD LET US DIE WHEN HE'S S'POSED TO BE TRYING TO SAVE US, JUST SO HIS LITTLE BROTHER CAN ADVANCE?
WE AREN'T GOING TO DIE.
AFTER ALL, EYES-KUN ISN'T DEAD YET.
AND IF THIS REALLY IS WHAT KIYOTAKA-SAMA IS PLOTTING, EVERYTHING WILL GO OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
NO ONE... WILL HAVE TO DIE.
...HE WON'T LET US DIE.

?
FU (HEH)
NADE (STROKE)
NADE ナデ
.....
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE AIN'T GONNA LET US DIE.
...KOU-SUKE...

IT'S JUST YOUR LOLITA COMPLEX ACTING UP, AM I RIGHT?
SEEING YOU LIKE THIS...
BUT RIO...
YEAH, SURE, SURE.
WHO'S GOT A LOLITA COM-PLEX !?
AND I'M NOT A LITTLE GIRL!
WE'RE THE SAME AGE!!
.....
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?

WE'LL PLACE OUR BETS ON THE LITTLE BROTHER AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
HIS EXISTENCE IS NO COINCI-DENCE.
SO...

...HE SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE US ALL.
SCREEN: NEWS SEVEN / 7 EYES RUTHERFORD
Eyes Rutherford-san, who was stabbed at the airport yesterday, remains in a coma.
With no leads on the the attacker, the police are still—
GRAND HOTEL

JUST GIVE UP ALREADY.
EYES ...
IT'S NO USE FIGHTING DEATH.
NO GOOD WILL COME OF YOUR WAKING UP.
SO...
...PLEASE.....
...EYES...

...JUST KEEP SLEEP-ING.
THE NEXT DAY
SIGN: RIO TAKEUCHI
5/10
GOGO (RUSTLE)

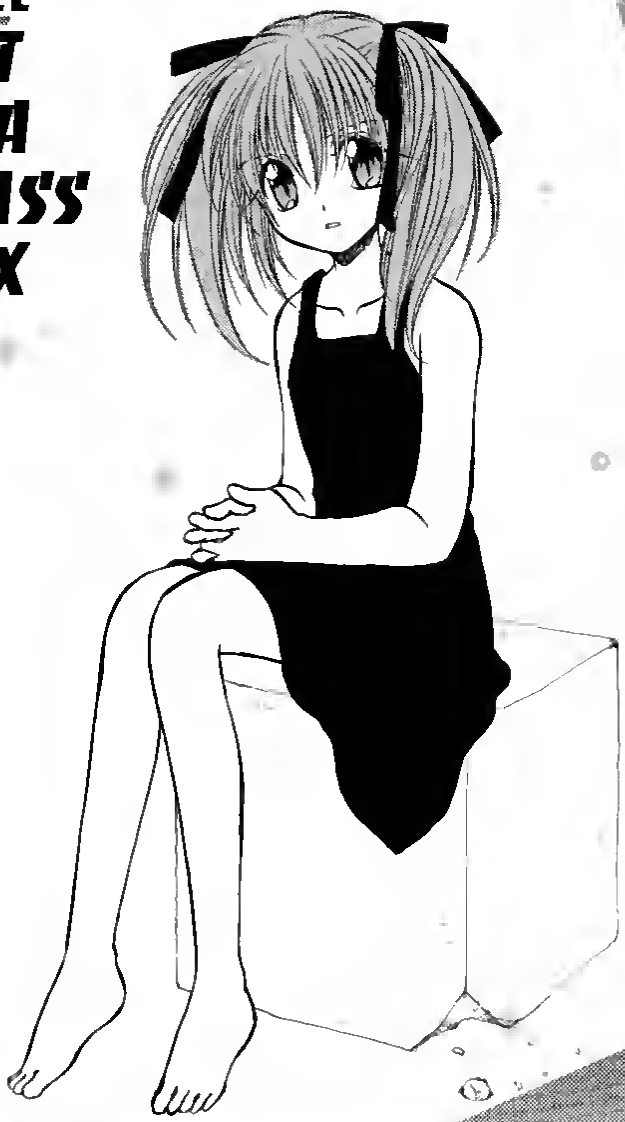
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE LEAVING ALREADY?
CHA (CLACK)

I'M GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS SOONER THAN PLANNED.
...I'D BE LEAVING MYSELF OPEN TO ANOTHER ATTACK FROM KANON-KUN IF I STAYED.
JIII (ZZZIP)
THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO SECURE A WAY OUT OF HERE WHENEVER I NEEDED IT.
GOSO (RUSTLE)
GOSO
I'M SURPRISED YOU GOT PERMISSION TO LEAVE.
I MEAN, JUST YESTERDAY THE NURSE WAS CALLED TO YOUR ROOM...
...WHAT DID YOU COME FOR TODAY?
SO...

I'M GOING TO CUT TO THE CHASE AND ASK YOU.
HOW MANY BLADE CHILDREN ARE AT TSUKIOMI HIGH RIGHT NOW?
INCLUDING MYSELF, THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE OF US.
THAT'S ALMOST ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN IN JAPAN ALONE.
I SEE.
THEN IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT...

YES.
TSUKIOMI HIGH INTENTIONALLY BROUGHT THE BLADE CHILDREN TOGETHER.
FOR US, IT'S JUST ANOTHER CAGE...
IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF HOPE...
...OR OF DESPAIR ...?

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE
ANT IN A GLASS BOX



TSUKIOMI HIGH INTENTIONALLY BROUGHT THE BLADE CHILDREN TOGETHER.
FOR US, IT'S JUST ANOTHER CAGE...
THERE ARE PEOPLE AMONG THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION WHO PLANNED IT THAT WAY.
SO THERE'S MIZUE NOHARA, IKUO TSUJII, SAYOKO SHIRANAGATANI...
...THEN YOU AND TAKAMACHI...
...AND THEN ASAZUKI... AND KANON WHO JUST SLIPPED RIGHT IN.
IT'D BE STRANGE NOT TO THINK THE SCHOOL WAS UP TO SOMETHING.
INDEED.

IF HIS AIM IS TO SLAUGHTER YOU ALL...
THAT'S WHY KANON ENROLLED AT TSUKIOMI, ISN'T IT...?
I COULD MAKE ANY NUMBER OF CONJEC-TURES, BUT...
...I'VE STILL GOT A MOUNTAIN OF QUESTIONS.
...THEN IT MAKES SENSE FOR HIM TO GO TO THE PLACE WHERE ALL HIS TARGETS ARE GATHERED.
...THIS IS NO PLACE FOR SUCH A CONVER-SATION.
HUP!
AT ANY RATE...
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY APARTMENT?

AH!
GUI CYAINKO
...GOOD IDEA.
?
I'LL CARRY THIS.
YOU'RE STILL INJURED, RIGHT?

...MAYBE I'LL PICK UP SOME INGREDIENTS ON THE WAY...
11:45
AH...
THANKS ...
INGRE-DIENTS?
FOR LUNCH.
It's just about the time for it.
I'll whip up something for you that'll taste better than that hospital food.

SIGNS L-R: OUTOMO BANK / BOY CRUNCH / RED CROSS ROOM / RESTAURANT AGITO / METACON / SNOW MOON FLOWERS / YOSHIZUYA SHOP

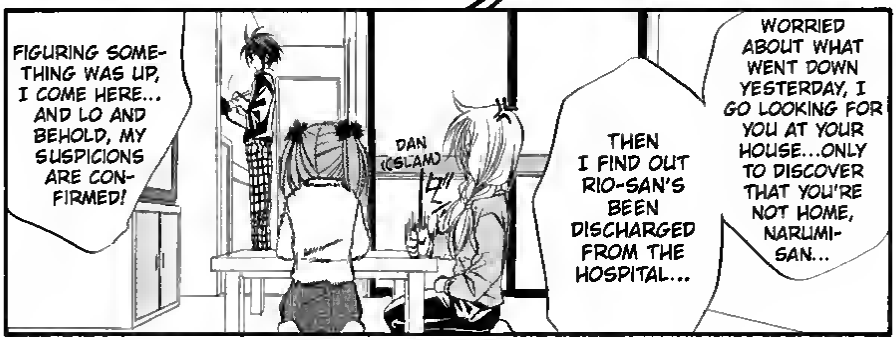
IT'S NOT REALLY A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, IS IT?
TRUST ME, I HEAR YOU... BUT IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, I KNOW SHE'LL BE PISSED.
...WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

HMM...
MAYBE WE COULD GET HER A FOOD THAT'LL HELP HER GROW TALLER...?
LIKE MILK... OR CHIRI-MENJAKO...
HEY!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T YOU TWO!
YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE HOLIDAY FOR A LITTLE ROMANTIC DATE?
NIKO (SMILE)
にこ

SIGN: HUGE SALE

...PERFECT TIMING.....
...HMM...
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?
THERE'S SOMETHING WE WANT TO TELL YOU.

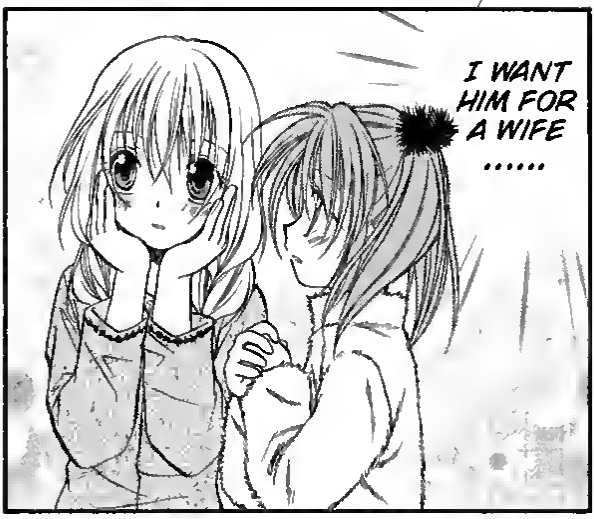
JU (SIZZLE)
わく WAKU (GIDDY)
わく WAKU
ぶす BUSU (GRUMPY)


FIGURING SOMETHING WAS UP, I COME HERE... AND LO AND BEHOLD, MY SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED!
DAN (SLAM)
THEN I FIND OUT RIO-SAN'S BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL...
WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WENT DOWN YESTERDAY, I GO LOOKING FOR YOU AT YOUR HOUSE...ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT YOU'RE NOT HOME, NARUMI-SAN...

HMPH!
NEXT TIME YOU LEAVE ME OUT OF THINGS, THAT'LL REALLY BE THE LAST STRAW!
...FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...
SHUT UP!!
I'M LETTING YOU EAT TOO.
GACHA (CLINK)
ガチャ…
HOW COULD YOU LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS!? ARE YOU TWO SHARING AN INTIMATE MEAL OR SOMETHING !?
IS THIS YOUR WAY OF FLIRTING, MAKING A HOME COOKED MEAL!?
...YOU'RE SO NOSY...
KOTO (CLACK)
コト…

THE NUTRITION BALANCE ISN'T A PROBLEM EITHER.
AND I'VE KEPT THE FLAVOR INTACT.

じー
JIII (STAAARE)
IT'S LOW-CALORIE, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING FAT.


I WANT HIM FOR A WIFE .....

I.....

はっ
HA (GASP)

...SO ANY-WAY...
BOX: TASTY! APPLES
...WHY DID TSUKIOMI HIGH ROUND UP TWENTY-FIVE BLADE CHILDREN?
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW ADVANTAGES TO HAVING YOU ALL GATHERED IN ONE PLACE.
SO THERE MUST BE SOME OBVIOUS REASON, RIGHT?
...YES.
IT MAKES WATCHING OVER US EASIER ...
SO WE CALL THOSE PEOPLE...
...THE "WATCH-ERS."

WELL, THOSE WATCHER PEOPLE SURE DID A GOOD JOB GATHERING ALL THE KIDS TOGETHER.
"WATCH-ERS"...
BUT IT SURE WAS A DIFFICULT PROCESS.
THE SCHOOL'S VERY TOUGH TO GET INTO, BOASTING THE NATION'S TOP SUCCESS RATE FOR COLLEGE APPLICANTS, REMEMBER?
BUT IF THEY WERE TO LET ANY INFERIOR STUDENTS IN, IT'D RUIN THE SCHOOL'S REPUTATION, WOULDN'T IT?
YES, BUT BLADE CHILDREN HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE IN GENERAL.
SO IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR THEM TO GATHER AT THIS POPULAR ELITE SCHOOL.

NOBODY WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT IT.
BUT IT'S NOT AS IF THEY ALL JUST NATURALLY CONGREGATED HERE, RIGHT?
NOT TO MENTION THE TUITION AND CLASS FEES ARE THE SAME AS FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL.
IT OFFERS ALL KINDS OF SCHOLARSHIPS, HAS A TOP-NOTCH STUDENT AID PROGRAM...
...AND DORMS RIGHT ON CAMPUS, SO IT'S NOT HARD ON THE WALLET...
BY INVESTIGATING EACH CASE BEFOREHAND, EVEN THOSE WHO DON'T APPLY ARE SCOUTED OUT AND GIVEN A SUITABLE REASON TO ENROLL...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ONLY BAD THING IS...
...WHEN YOU'RE TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL GATHERS BLADE CHILDREN, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO JOIN.
THANK YOU FOR THIS FOOD
TO START WITH, THE BLADE CHILDREN ARE SMART AND EXCEL IN SOME SKILL OR OTHER.
THAT ALSO HELPS JUSTIFY THE SCHOOL'S TARGETED RECRUIT-MENT.

LIKE RYOUKO-CHAN.
THE ADMINIS-TRATION AT TSUKIOMI HIGH HAS INFLUENCE OVER SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE.
(PAKU) (MUNCH)
THEY CAN INTERFERE JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE STUDENTS FROM ENROLLING IN ANY OTHER SCHOOL.
HAUH...
LITTLE BROTHER
YOU'RE EVEN BETTER AT COOKING THAN THE RUMORS SAID—!
HMMM....
...SOME-THING'S..... WEIRD, DON'T YOU THINK?

SO THE SCHOOL'S AMASSED ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN IN ORDER TO WATCH OVER THEM, RIGHT?
AND YET, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THEY NEVER STEP IN TO HELP.
IN SPITE OF ALL THE THINGS THAT'VE BEEN GOING ON LATELY...
...THEY DON'T DEFEND ...
...OR PROTECT THE KIDS AT ALL...
THEY DON'T TRY TO EXPOSE THE CRIME, SO IT'S LIKE THEY COMPLETELY LEAVE THE SITUATION TO SORT ITSELF OUT.
THEY'VE DONE NOTHING BUT GATHER THEM ALL TOGETHER!
WOULDN'T THEIR EFFORTS BE WASTED IF ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN WERE KILLED!?
AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY EVEN LET KANON-SAN, WHO'S PLOTTING TO ANNIHILATE ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN, ENROLL AT THE SCHOOL.
DON'T THE WATCHERS KNOW WHAT KANON-SAN PLANS TO DO?
OF COURSE THEY DO.

KIYOTAKA-SAMA MUST HAVE INFORMED THEM...
THE WATCHERS NEVER INTERFERE WITH THE BLADE CHILDREN'S ACTIONS.
AND KANON-KUN'S ALREADY INFAMOUS...
WHETHER WE PARTAKE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OR TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER...
...NO MATTER WHAT WE SCHEME...
...WE'RE ONLY WATCHED FROM ON HIGH.
EEH?
UM...
WH-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RATHER THAN SAYING THEY "WATCH OVER" YOU...
...IT'S MORE LIKE THEY'RE SIMPLY "OBSERVING" YOU.

?
?
.....
...THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU.
KACHA (CLACK)
WHAT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND FOR NOW IS...
...UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TSUKIOMI HIGH WILL SOON BECOME A BATTLEGROUND FOR US AND KANON-KUN.
...LITTLE BROTHER.

...IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST KANON-KUN...
...WILL YOU LEND US YOUR STRENGTH?
...THAT'S WHAT MY BROTHER WISHES.

SO IT'S NO USE RESISTING .....
JUST AS HE WANTS ...
...I'LL DANCE FOR HIM.
KANON...
...YOU'RE ONLY BEING MANIPULATED BY KIYOTAKA...
YOUR "PASSING JUDGMENT" AND BETRAYAL OF EYES...
...KIYOTAKA SET IT ALL UP.

HMM ...
SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT KIYOTAKA HERE, I CAN'T REALLY DENY IT.
HE'S ONE SCARY GUY.
.....YOU'RE JUST..... HIS CLUMSY MARIONETTE...
QUIT FOOLING AROUND!
GET A CLUE ALREADY!
KIYOTAKA'S DECEIVING YOU!

MY WISH IS MINE ALONE.
I WON'T LET KIYOTAKA CONTROL ME.

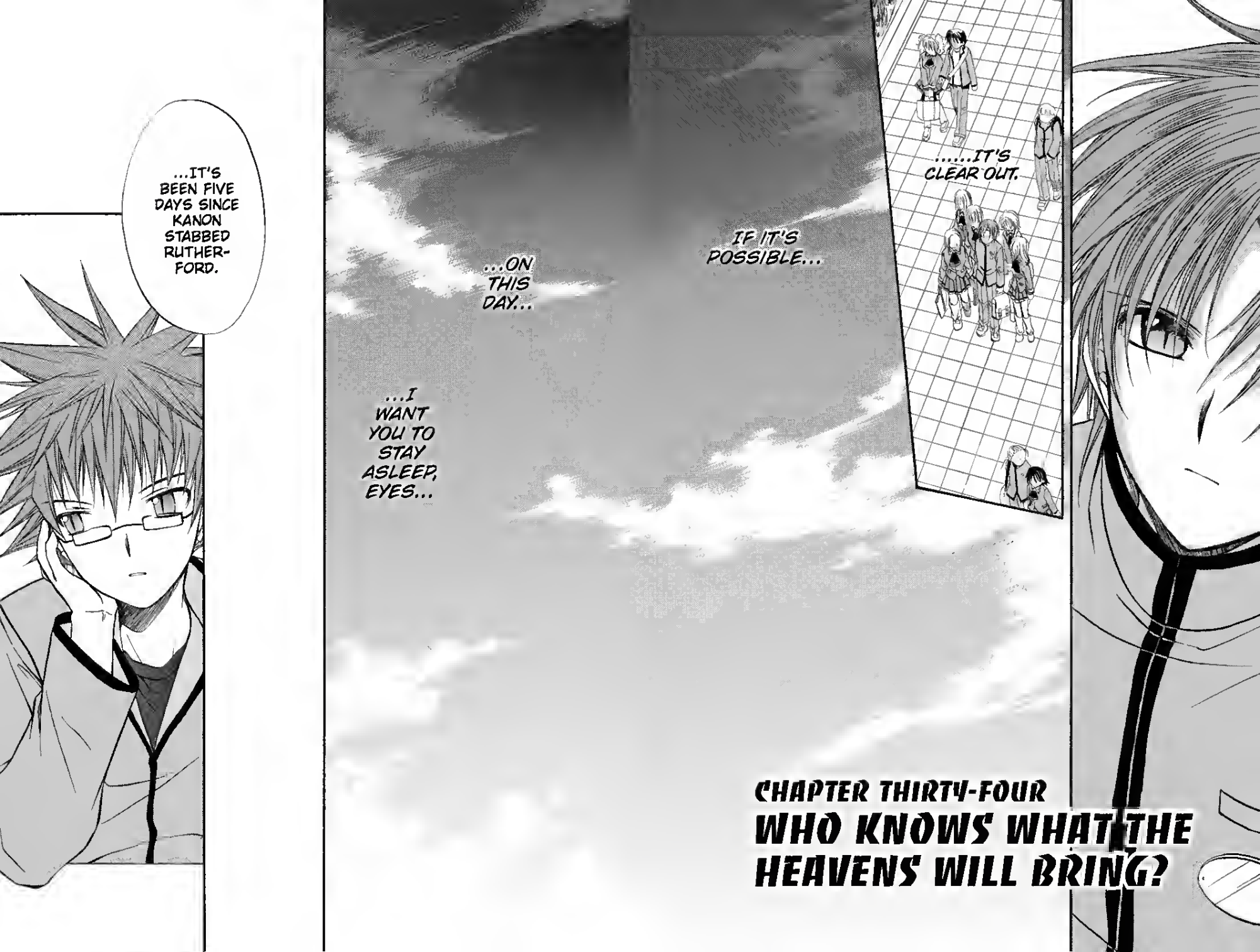
I FEEL BAD FOR THAT KANON GUY.
I'M SURE HE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT MY BROTHER'S USING HIM...
...AND THAT HE'S LOSING WHAT HE HOLDS DEAR.

I'M NOT SUCH A FOOL THAT I'D LET SOME-BODY...
...MANIPULATE ME TO THE POINT THAT I'D BETRAY EYES.

EVEN IF HE DID KNOW IT...
...HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY.
HE CAN...
...NO LONGER BE SAVED...
.....NO.
YOU CAN SAVE HIM.

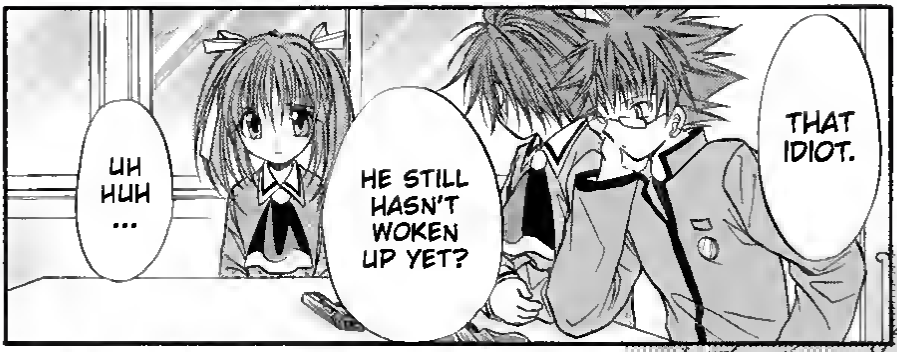
...AND EVEN...
YOU CAN SAVE KANON-KUN...
...YOURSELF.....
...AND US...

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HEAVENS WILL BRING?


...IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE KANON STABBED RUTHER-FORD.
...ON THIS DAY...
IF IT'S POSSIBLE...
.....IT'S CLEAR OUT.
...I WANT YOU TO STAY ASLEEP, EYES...
CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HEAVENS WILL BRING?

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HEAVENS WILL BRING?

...IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE KANON STABBED RUTHER-FORD.
...ON THIS DAY...
...I WANT YOU TO STAY ASLEEP, EYES...


THAT IDIOT.
HE STILL HASN'T WOKEN UP YET?
UH HUH ...

...YOU'RE OVERRE-ACTING.
THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO KILL HIM...

WHETHER HE WAKES UP OR EVENTUALLY DIES, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

...BUT RIO...

カタ
KATA (CLUNK)

OUR OPPONENT IS KANON-KUN...
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE COMING AT US WITH TOYS.
...I'M SURPRISED YOU WERE ABLE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THESE GENUINE SUBMACHINE GUNS.
THE BULLETS ARE SMALL AND WON'T KILL A PERSON UNLESS YOU'RE AIMING FOR THEIR VITALS.
THESE HOLD TWENTY ROUNDS.
AND BEING SEMI-AUTOMATIC, THEY CAN EMPTY ALL TWENTY IN ABOUT A SECOND.
AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH ...
I'LL GIVE EACH OF YOU FIVE SPARE MAGAZINES AS WELL.
CARRY IT IN YOUR BAG WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.
SO HE'LL EVENTUALLY BRING OUT HIS BIG GUNS TOO?

CHAKA (CLICK)
...GIMME A BREAK...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING ROPED INTO CARRYING A THING LIKE THIS AGAIN...
.....
...THE BASIC STRATEGY IS TWOFOLD; AN ADVANCE GUARD ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS WILL CHECK KANON-KUN'S APPROACH...
...WHILE THE REAR GUARD MOVES IN, USING HANDGUNS LOADED WITH ANESTHETIC BULLETS.
KATA (CLACK)
EVEN KANON-KUN CAN'T ATTACK WHILE FACING A BARRAGE OF BULLETS.
JUST ONE HIT TO HIS LEG SHOULD HAMPER HIS MOVEMENTS.

EVEN IF YOU MESS UP, YOU MUST NEVER TAKE ON KANON-KUN ALONE...
ONLY FACE HIM WHEN IN TEAMS OF TWO OR MORE...
UNDER-STOOD?
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
YEAH, YEAH.
FUU (SIGH)
...WE'VE ALSO GOT OTHER EQUIPMENT THAT'LL BE HIDDEN ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, OKAY?
I'LL HAVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE HAND GRENADES AND AN ANESTHETIC GUN ON ME AT ALL TIMES.
KORO (ROLL)
PLEASE CUT THAT OUT!!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF YOU...
...PLOTTING LIKE TERRORISTS IN MY SACRED NEWSPAPER CLUB ROOM!?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT'S WITH YOU THREE ACTING LIKE THIS SORT OF THING IS COMPLETELY NORMAL!?

BUT LITTLE LADY...
...THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN MEET UP ON CAMPUS.
POSTER: BEAUTY NEWS
DON'T BE SO HARD ON US.
YOU ONLY GOT THIS CLUB ROOM BY DECEIVING THE STUDENT COUNCIL, REMEMBER ...?
I DID NO SUCH THING!
I JUST THREAT-ENED THEM.
THAT'S EVEN WORSE.
UU (SOB)
DON'T YOU SEE HOW CRUEL IT IS TO TURN MY ROOM INTO A SECRET HEADQUAR-TERS FOR EVILDOERS ~~~~?
YOU'RE PRETTY VILLAINOUS YOURSELF, SO IT SUITS YOU!
PAN (BLAM)

CHA (CLICK)
KI (GLARE)
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS I MODELED AFTER THE PRIDE AND JOY OF THE CZECH POLICE, THE CZ 75.
USING AIR AND SPRING PRESSURE, IT FIRES ITS ANESTHETIC ROUNDS AT 170 METERS PER SECOND.
THESE ARE PRETTY EFFECTIVE LITTLE AIR GUNS.

SU (AIM)
GU (SQUEEZE)
GASHO (CLICK)
THE ONLY DRAWBACK TO ITS MODIFIED FIRING MECHANISM ...
...IS THAT YOU HAVE TO COCK IT EVERY TIME YOU FIRE A ROUND.
PAN (BLAM)
...NOT BAD.
I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO LET ME BORROW IT.

YOU TOO, NARUMI-SAN!?
YOUR MOM WOULD NEVER LET YOU CARRY SUCH A DANGEROUS WEAPON!!
WHO'S MY MOM?
I'LL BE TAKING KANON ON.
I'LL NEED AT LEAST THIS MUCH ON ME, RIGHT?
HMPH...
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
...SOME-THING JUST FEELS WRONG ABOUT IT!
IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU, NARUMI-SAN!!
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GEEZ!
I MEAN, IS ALL THIS REALLY GOING TO WORK!?

WE DON'T KNOW WHEN EACH OF THE TWENTY-PLUS BLADE CHILDREN WILL BE TARGETED.
IT'S TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOU GUYS ALONE TO PROTECT ALL OF THEM.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHEN HE MAKES HIS MOVE, HE'LL MOST LIKELY GET EVERYONE TOGETHER AND KILL THEM ALL IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
IT'D DO HIM NO GOOD TO SINGLE HIS TARGETS OUT RANDOMLY.
...THAT'S FOR SURE.
ALMOST ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED AT TSUKIOMI HIGH.
EVEN IF HE TRIED TO MAKE EVERY ONE OF THEIR DEATHS LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT...
...ALL THESE STUDENTS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL DYING OFF ONE BY ONE WOULD AROUSE THE SUSPICIONS OF THE POLICE.

BY THE TIME FIVE PEOPLE WERE DEAD, THEY'D CLOSE THE SCHOOL...
...AND THE POLICE INVESTIGATION WOULD GET SO TIGHT, IT'D MAKE HIS NEXT KILL DIFFICULT TO PULL OFF.
AND WITH KANON HAVING TRANSFERRED AT AN UNUSUAL TIME OF THE YEAR...
...THE LIKELIHOOD OF HIS BECOMING A SUSPECT WOULD BE GREAT.
SO HE'S LIKELY TO STAGE IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE CAN GATHER AND KILL ALL OF US AT ONCE BEFORE THE POLICE HAVE TIME TO INTRUDE.
UNTIL THAT STAGE IS COMPLETE, KANON-KUN WILL KEEP UP HIS TYPICAL STUDENT ACT.
ALL WE CAN DO IS READ INTO WHEN AND HOW THAT STAGE WILL BE SET...
...AND MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
WE CAN GUESS HIS METHOD MORE OR LESS.
BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY WAYS KANON-KUN CAN ISOLATE THE BLADE CHILDREN...
... KILL US QUICKLY, AND GET AWAY UNHARMED.

'COS WITH RIO AROUND, WE'D BE ABLE TO DISMANTLE THE EXPLOSIVES FOR SURE.
THAT'S WHY HE TRIED TO GET RID OF HER.
...IT MEANS HE PROBABLY PLANTED BOMBS SOMEWHERE ON CAMPUS.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT HOW GREAT A RISK HE TOOK IN TRYING TO KILL ME OFF FIRST...
IF HE COMES AFTER YOU OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, BACKUP MAY BE DELAYED IN GETTING TO YOU.
BUT...IS IT ENOUGH TO ONLY BE ON YOUR GUARD AT SCHOOL?
...THOSE HIGHER-UPS OF TSUKIOMI HIGH WHO PRETEND THEY'RE JUST ONLOOKERS...
HE ALSO WANTS TO DRAG THE WATCHERS OUT TO THE PLACE OF JUDGMENT...
THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS ISN'T ONLY TO PASS JUDGMENT ON US.
BECAUSE KANON'S GOAL ISN'T JUST TO OBLITERATE THE BLADE CHILDREN...
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM EITHER.

THAT IS KANON-KUN'S GOAL.
IF MORE THAN TWENTY STUDENTS WERE KILLED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS IN A SINGLE INCIDENT...
...THE POLICE AND MEDIA WOULD THINK SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS WAS GOING ON WITHIN THE SCHOOL.
AND ONCE THEY'D FOUND OUT THE TRUTH...
...EVEN THE LITTLEST BIT OF PRESSURE WOULD BRING THE AUTHORITIES AND AN INVESTIGATION DOWN ON THE WATCHERS IN THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.
SOCIETY AS A WHOLE WOULD PASS JUDGMENT ON THEM.
SO JUST KEEPING UP OUR GUARD ON SCHOOL GROUNDS IS PLENTY SAFE.
...IN THAT CASE...
...AREN'T YOU GOING TO WARN THE OTHER BLADE CHILDREN AND ASK FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN THIS TOO?

WHEN YOU CONSIDER SAFETY AND BATTLE POWER—
JUST 'COS THEY'RE BLADE CHILDREN LIKE US DOESN'T GUARANTEE THEY'LL COOPERATE ...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF NUTJOBS THEY MIGHT BE...
AND THERE ARE EVEN THOSE AMONG THEM WHO DON'T REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE.
NOT BEING CAREFUL IN HOW WE APPROACH THEM COULD ONLY END UP DOING US MORE DAMAGE.
.....
...IN SOME WAYS, BEING "CHILDREN LIKE US"...
...IS A HASSLE...

EH...?
...WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET GOING NOW.
.....
NARU—
PATAN (SHUT)
.....
HAA (SIGH)
はあ
KII (CREAK)
TODAY'S A SPECIAL SALES DAY AT THE SUPER-MARKET.
CHEEZ!
HE'S MR. SERIOUS ALL THE TIME.
HOW TROUBLE-SOME.....

HIS EYES WERE SO DEPRESSING.
CAN WE REALLY USE ...KIYOTAKA'S LITTLE BROTHER... AS-IS?
HE'S JUST THINKING TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW.
WHEN IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO THE WIRE, THE SWITCH WILL FLIP ON.
...HE WILL GROW FROM THIS FIGHT.....
...AND WE WILL GET AHOLD OF THE FANG WE NEED TO TOPPLE GOD.

BOSO (WHISPER)
...CAN YOU REALLY CALL THAT GROWTH, I WONDER ...?
GATA (CLATTER)
WE'RE OUTTA HERE TOO.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S GONNA BE POURING US TEA ANYTIME SOON, SO...
GATA
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS PLACE LACKS A CERTAIN DECORUM
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT AFTER YOU BARGED IN AND MADE THIS YOUR LITTLE HANG-OUT!?
GATA
WELL, HIYONO-SAN.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING!

PLEASE DON'T!!
WE'LL COME AGAIN, 'KAY!?
パタン!
PATAN (SHUT)
はあ
HAA (SIGH)
THEY GOT ME...

ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE...
...I CAN'T SIT ON MY HANDS EITHER.
SIGN: ABEL
ANTA
COFFEE
Momi

ANTA view
MAKIBISHI
According to an announcement by—
And now for today's headlines ...
.....
CHA (CLICK)

WHY, HELLO...
...THERE! ♡
PACHIKURI (GAPE)
ふぁ〜
PEOPLE AROUND US WILL START WONDERING WHAT'S UP.
PLEASE JUST ACT NATURALLY.

I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO FIRE THEM ALL RIGHT NOW.
...THAT'S THE GUN YOU SNAGGED FROM ME BACK IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM, ISN'T IT?
YES.
THERE ARE STILL EIGHT BULLETS LEFT IN IT.
...YOU'RE QUITE A SCARY YOUNG LADY.
...I'M THREATENING YOU BECAUSE THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT WILL END WITH SMALL TALK, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
AND ALL THIS WHEN I WOULD HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU WITHOUT THE THREATS...

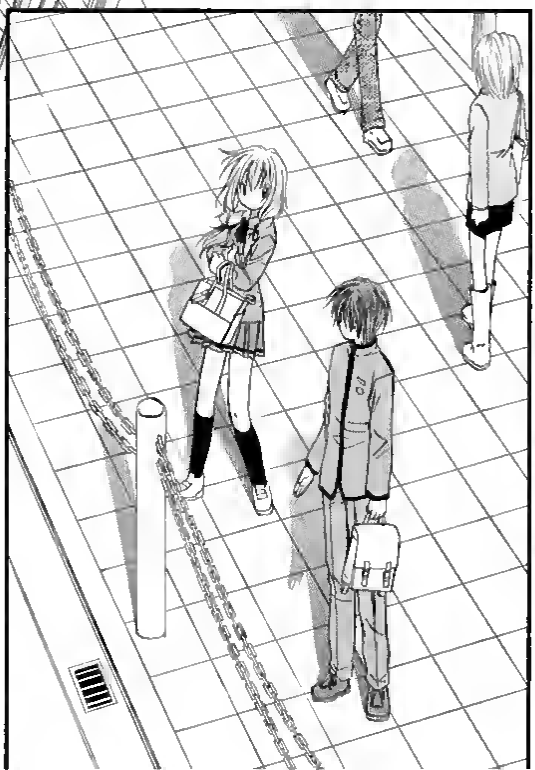
CAN YOU LAY LOW FOR ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH?
...SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
EVERY-ONE IS SO RILED UP, IT SIMPLY WON'T DO.
THEY NEED TIME TO COOL THEIR HEADS A LITTLE.
ESPECIALLY NARUMI-SAN. IT'S TERRIBLE WHEN HE LOSES HIS NERVE MORE THAN USUAL.
HE KEEPS SAYING HE'S JUST HIS BIG BROTHER'S MARION-ETTE.
HA HA.
AYUMU-KUN, EH...?
SO IN THE END, HE DECIDED TO BECOME MY ENEMY, DID HE?
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.

BECAUSE YOU TOO ARE BIG BROTHER KIYOTAKA'S MARIONETTE.
SIGN: FUROMITSU / ABEL
...ASAZUKI AND RYOUKO SAID THE SAME THING, BUT...
ANTA
...I'M NOT LIKE AYUMU-KUN...
...BECAUSE NEITHER MY WILL NOR MY DESIRES CAN BE MANIPU-LATED BY ANYONE.

WHAT IS IT YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
IF YOU WANT YOUR PROFILE, I CAN GIVE YOU THAT MUCH.
WELL, LET'S SEE ...
NAME: KANON HILBERT.
BLOOD TYPE: A.
AGE: SEVEN-TEEN.
BIRTHDAY: SEPTEMBER 25TH, SIGN: LIBRA.
FAVORITE FOOD: BANANA BEAN-JAM.
FAVORITE ANIMAL: CAT.
ESPECIALLY FOND OF HIMA-LAYANS.

YOU'RE AN EXPERT WHEN IT COMES TO GUNS...
SO MUCH SO, THE HUNTERS USED TO CALL YOU "THE WINGED GUN" AND FEARED YOU.
BUT NOW YOU'RE ACTING AS A HUNTER YOURSELF, SCHEMING TO ANNIHILATE THE BLADE CHILDREN...
YOUR MOTHER'S NAME...
...IS EVANGELINE HILBERT.
AND YOUR FATHER'S NAME...

HIYAH .....!
BI (CHOP)
カン KAN (BLAM)
カン KAN
SAIFU



DID YOU HEAR A STRANGE NOISE?
NO, DID YOU?

ONLY SIX SHOTS LEFT, HM?
GOSU (SHIVER)
WHO ARE YOU?

A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL WHO DREAMS OF LOVE!
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE TSUKIOMI HIGH NEWSPAPER CLUB.
HIYONO YUIZAKI.
.....
...Next up in the news...

ANTA VISION
The famous pianist, Eyes Rutherford-san, who was stabbed in the airport last week during his visit to Japan and has been in a coma ever since...
STUDIO ANTA
...regained consciousness just after three o'clock this afternoon.
!!

...WHY DID YOU WAKE UP!?
...WHY...
...EYES...
Though the police have not yet been able to question him...
...in two or three days—

...WHY...
Though the police have not yet been able to question him...
...in two or three days—
...EYES...

...WHY DID YOU WAKE UP!?

...FAILING TO KILL ME OFF...
...WAS A FOOLISH MISTAKE...
...KANON...

Spiral
THE BONDS OF REASONING

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE
LA CAMPANELLA

Eyes Rutherford, who was stabbed by an unknown attacker at the airport last week, has regained consciousness.
YES!
EYES-KUN IS BACK IN ACTION!!
THAT JERK KANON MUST BE IN A PANIC...
...IF HE'S STILL CAPABLE OF PANICKING, THEN THERE MUST BE SOME INNOCENCE LEFT IN HIM YET.

I ONLY HOPE HE DOESN'T FEEL CORNERED ...
...AND DO SOMETHING RECKLESS...
カラ
KARARA (RATTLE)
...SO RUTHERFORD'S AWAKE, IS HE...?
THIS HAS GOT TO BE JUST AS MY BROTHER PREDICTED...
...WITH SUCH LIGHT CLOTHING ON...

...YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD.
...I'M TOO SLOW TO CATCH A COLD...
FUWA (DRAPE)
ふわ
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
...SINCE WE'VE GOTTEN TO TALK LIKE THIS...

...HOW COLD.
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR A BROTHER AND SISTER TO COMMUNICATE WARMLY LIKE THIS ONCE IN A WHILE—
WELL, YOU'RE ONLY MY SISTER-IN-LAW, RIGHT?
BAKO (BONK)
OW!
HAA (SIGH) はあ
...I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...

IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO GO AWAY, JUST LIKE KIYOTAKA-SAN DID...
I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT'S ON YOUR MIND, BUT...
...YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME ONCE IN A WHILE.
IT'S NOTHING WORTH BOTHERING A LIEUTENANT FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS OVER.
.....
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU.

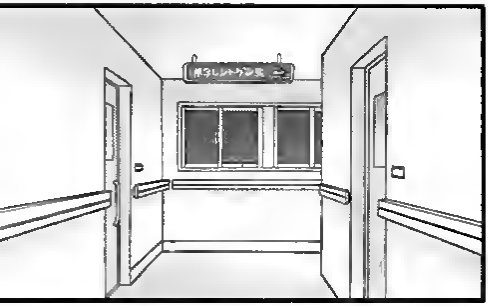
WHEN KIYOTAKA-SAN DISAPPEARED ...
...I MIGHT'VE DIED OF LONELINESS IF YOU HADN'T COME BACK FROM YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE.
AND FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS...
...IF YOU HADN'T LIVED WITH ME, I MIGHT'VE SPENT EVERY DAY CRYING.
SO?
SO I WANT TO RETURN THE FAVOR...
YOU KNOW?
DON'T WALK ON EGGSHELLS AROUND YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW.
PIKI (SNAP)
GOSU (BASH)

SINCE YOU'D LEFT YOUR PARENTS TO GO LIVE WITH KIYOTAKA-SAN WHEN YOU WERE EIGHT YEARS OLD...
...I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD LIVE WITH US. BUT STILL YOU UP AND LEFT FOR YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE ANY-WAY!
I COULDN'T INTRUDE ON A COUPLE OF NEWLY-WEDS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS BEEN WALKING ON EGGSHELLS AROUND ME, DON'T YOU SEE!?
EVEN WHEN I GOT MARRIED!
SURE I WISH WE COULD'VE BEEN LOVEY-DOVEY WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT YOU, BUT...
...I'M TELLING YOU, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME, RIGHT, SIS?
UH...

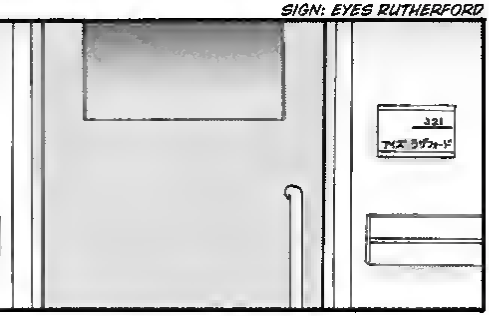
...THEN...
UNTIL MY BROTHER COMES BACK, I'M GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND LOOK AFTER YOU.
BO (PAT)
I'M NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR ON YOU.
KARA (RATTLE)
...WHAT'LL YOU DO WHEN KIYOTAKA-SAN COMES HOME?
I'LL GO BACK TO MY PARENTS' AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WITH MY BROTHER HERE, I'LL ONLY GET IN THE WAY, RIGHT?

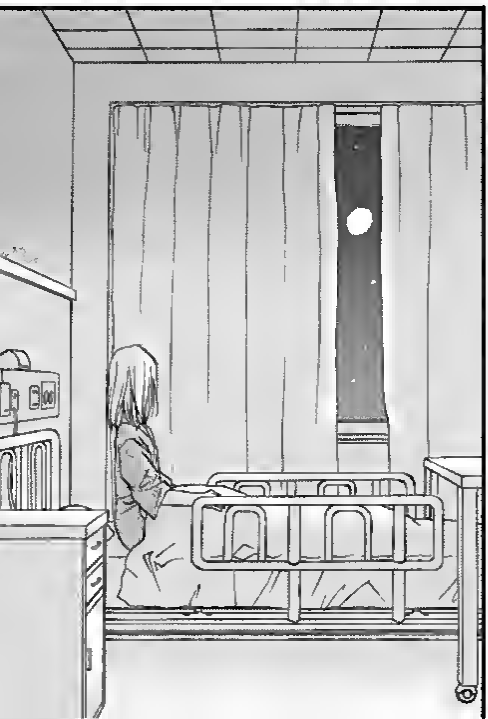
I WON'T BE NEEDED...
IF MY BROTHER'S HERE, SHE WON'T NEED ME ANY-MORE...
GRAND HOTEL
Next on the news...

...DID I GO EASY ON HIM WITHOUT REALIZING IT?
I MEANT TO KILL HIM OFF...
WHY DIDN'T EYES DIE...?
DID MY HEART REFUSE ME...?
GI (CLENCH)
...AND I THOUGHT I HAD...



SIGN: EYES RUTHERFORD





...KIYO-TAKA.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT...?
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME KILL KANON?
IN THAT CASE...
...I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

THE NEXT DAY
HUH?
GI (SQUEAK)
EYES RUTHER-FORD?
YES.
RUTHERFORD-SAN'S SAYING HE WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU, LIEUTENANT.
I KNOW.
BUT HE'S SAYING HE WANTS TO MEET YOU.
HOLD IT.
I WASN'T PUT ON HIS ASSAULT CASE.
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THAT GLOOMY-FACED KID.

TSUKIOMI SCHOOL CAFETERIA
SIGN: NEW MENU
ORACLE MONT BLANC
AND THAT IF YOU REFUSE, HE WON'T COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION.
...WHAT...
...IS THAT...?
"ORACLE MONT BLANC"...?

IT'S A GOOD VALUE ITEM THAT LETS YOU EAT AND LEARN YOUR FORTUNE IN ONE GO.
APPARENTLY, THERE'S A PIECE OF PAPER INSIDE THE CAKE THAT HAS YOUR "DAILY FORTUNE" WRITTEN ON IT.
DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN FORTUNES, NARUMI-SAN?
WHY WOULD I BELIEVE IN THOSE?
I ONLY ORDERED IT BECAUSE THE SPECIAL SALE PRICE IS SO CHEAP.
...MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...
ZU (SIP)

SURE...
I GATHERED SOME INFORMATION EARLIER, BUT...
KACHA (CLINK)
...AND GETTING ALONG FAMOUSLY WITH ALL THE GIRLS.
...HE'S ATTENDING CLASSES AS USUAL...
...THERE'S NO CHANGE IN KANON-SAN.
...RUTHER-FORD-SAN MAY HAVE REVIVED, BUT...
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.
S-KU (SLICE)
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL BE MAKING CONTACT WITH HIS ALLIES ANYTIME SOON.
EVEN WITH HIS CONSCIOUS-NESS BACK, RUTHERFORD CAN'T MOVE.
HE'S NOT STUPID.

FOR NOW, HE'S GOING TO STAY CALM...
...AND CONCENTRATE ON HOW TO ADJUST HIS PLAN.
SU (STEP)
WELL ...
...WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT...
NIKO (SMILE)
MAY I SIT WITH YOU?

AWW, DON'T SAY THAT.
...WE CAN'T EXACTLY WELCOME YOU HERE.
DON'T GO MAKING US OUT TO BE ALL BUDDY-BUDDY!
すとん
SUTON (PLOP)
YOU AND I ARE PALS, AREN'T WE?
...THAT EYES WOKE UP...
...I WAS SO SURPRISED...

EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN THE ART OF MURDER.
WHILE YOU GUYS WERE LEARNING HOW TO ADD FRACTIONS, MY HANDS REEKED OF GUN OIL..
AND BY THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, I WAS ALREADY BEING TARGETED BY PLENTY OF ENEMIES.
I TOOK THEM ALL OUT QUITE NEATLY...
YOU SURE IT WAS A SURPRISE?
OF COURSE IT WAS!
I WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THAT HE'D DIE.
I MEAN, I'M A PROFESSIONAL KILLER, RIGHT?
#7! SAKU (SLICE)

AND IF THE URGE STRUCK ME, I COULD TAKE THE PEOPLE IN THIS CAFETERIA RIGHT NOW...
...AND KILL THEM ALL IN LESS THAN TWENTY SECONDS.
PAKU (CHOMP)
...YOU DONE WITH YOUR BRAG-FEST?
I DIDN'T INTEND TO BRAG.
I'M JUST TRYING TO POINT OUT THAT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO AGAINST AN OPPONENT LIKE ME.
SAKURI (STAB)

AND I'VE TAUGHT THEM EVERYTHING THEY KNOW ABOUT HAND-TO-HAND AND SMALL ARMS COMBAT.
ASAZUKI, RYOUKO...
...AND EVEN RIO POSSESS CONSIDERABLE COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
VIOLENCE IS SUCH A HASSLE.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GOTTEN INTO A SERIOUS FISTFIGHT, NOW HAVE YOU?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO FIGHT ME.
...YOU'RE POWER-LESS...

VIOLENCE IS SO UNCIVILIZED!
.....
NARUMI-SAN DOESN'T NEED THAT SORT OF THING!
HE'S GOT A SURE-FIRE COMBAT STRATEGY!
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE...
...YOUNG LADY...?
PI (POINT)
LOGIC.

PESHIN (SPLAT)
THE REASONING AND LOGIC THAT STEMS FROM NARUMI-SAN'S HEAD...
...IS WORTH AN ARMY OF A THOUSAND MEN.
QUIT SAYING EMBARRASSING STUFF LIKE THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
GATA (CLATTER)
YOU SHOULDN'T BE EMBARRASSED BY IT!
WHAT'D YOU HIT ME WITH ANYWAY!?
THE FORTUNE FROM THE MONT BLANC.

GASA (RUSTLE)
LET'S SEE...
PREDICTION OF A NEW LOVE...
DOES YOUR HEART RACE WHEN A CERTAIN SOMEBODY IS NEAR?
新しい恋の予感♡
身近なあの子にドッキドキ?
ラッキー カラー
赤
YOUR LUCKY COLOR IS RED.
...I KNOW IT'S JUST A FORTUNE, BUT...I WISH IT'D TELL US SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE USEFUL.
GATA (CLATTER)
...WELL THEN...
HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU SOMETHING BETTER IN ITS PLACE?

WHAT?
THE OVER-WHELMING POWER OF VIOLENCE...
SU (REACH)
...BEATS LOGIC ANY DAY.

SAN
(BAM)
GUI
(YANK)

DOSU
(WHACK)
KI
(SQUEAK)
DO
(WHAM)
HYU
(WHOOSH)

GATAAAN
(CLAAAANG)
PARIN
(CLINK)
DON
(THUD)

SHIIN
(SILENCE)
...HE COULDN'T BLOCK A SINGLE ATTACK.
TAN
(TMP)
PATHETIC.

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO!!?
WH—
NARU—
DON'T MOVE.
.....!

DON'T WORRY.
I'M PERFECTLY SANE.
IMPRES-SIVE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
THIS ISN'T A TOY.
IT'S THE REAL DEAL, ONE THAT WILL BLOW A PERSON'S BRAINS OUT IN ONE SHOT.
YOU'VE FINALLY LOST IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
...PULLING OUT A REAL GUN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
GATA (CLATTER)
...SEE?
AS PROOF, AYUMU-KUN'S STILL ALIVE AND WELL.
KAHA (CHACK)

IF I'D REALLY LOST IT, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK LIKE THAT.
IF I'D BEEN SERIOUS, HE'D HAVE COUGHED UP BLOOD AND DIED.
I'M STILL KEEPING MY PROMISE TO NOT KILL ANYBODY BESIDES THE BLADE CHILDREN.
.....
KA (CLICK)
SU (SLIDE)

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ...
...KANON HILBERT ...?
...CAUSING A BIG SCENE LIKE THIS, EVEN PULLING OUT A REAL GUN... NOBODY'LL LISTEN TO ANY EXCUSE YOU COME UP WITH.
SU (LIFT)
IT'LL BE YOUR WIN.
...I'LL BE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE AND WON'T GET TO ANNIHILATE ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN.
IF I'M RENDERED POWERLESS BY THAT ANESTHETIC-LOADED GUN RIGHT NOW...
EXACTLY.
MY BEST CHANCE LIES WITH YOU.

...SO GO AHEAD AND SHOOT.
I'LL LET YOU GO FIRST.
GU (SQUEEZE)
.....

IS THIS...
...MY ONLY CHOICE ...!?
CHA (CLICK)
TOO SLOW.

DON
BLAM

KIN
(CLINK)
KORO
(ROLL)

...LOOKS LIKE YOUR DAILY FORTUNE JUST WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE...
GURI (GRIND)
IN THE FACE OF BRUTE FORCE, LOGIC MEANS NOTHING, YOU SEE?

DAAN
(BLAM)
HMPH
...NOW
THEN...
SU
(LIFT)

...LET'S GET THIS CARNIVAL STARTED, SHALL WE?

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX
LEST DARKNESS FALL

SIGN: EYES R—
アイズラ
美羽国際病院
BUILDING: MIU INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED IT, BUT YOU'VE BEEN GRANTED A FIVE-MINUTE MEETING WITH ME.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU ASKED FOR ME BY NAME.
SO LET'S GET TO THE POINT.

.....
...I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER.
HUH?
...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
I'VE NEVER CALLED HIM "BROTHER" OR EVEN TREATED HIM LIKE ONE, BUT...
...SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, HE STILL MIGHT'VE SPOILED ME LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER WOULD.

I'M...
...ONE OF THE BLADE CHILDREN.
AND I HAVE INFORMATION ON THE MISSING KIYOTAKA NARUMI.
GA (GRAB)
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I ASKED FOR YOU PERSONALLY?
YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM!?
WHERE IS KIYOTAKA-SAN NOW!?

I DON'T KNOW HIS EXACT LOCATION OR HOW TO CONTACT HIM.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM!?
BUT I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHY HE DISAPPEARED AND WHAT HIS NEXT MOVE WILL BE.

.....
...DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU'LL BE GIVING ME THAT INFORMATION FOR FREE .....
WHAT DO YOU WANT IN EX-CHANGE ?
HEH...
YOU REALLY ARE JUST THE KIND OF WOMAN KIYOTAKA WOULD PICK.
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.
NOW WHAT ARE YOUR TERMS?

IF IT MEANS GETTING CLOSER TO KIYOTAKA-SAN...
...I'LL EVEN BREAK THE LAW IF I MUST.
KON (KNOCK)
.....
KON
KON
KURU (TURN)
GARA (SLIDE)
KON
KON

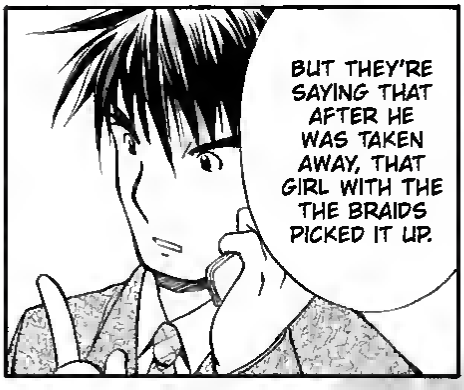
PHONE CALL?
IT'S FROM SOMEONE NAMED WATAYA.
HE SAYS IT'S URGENT ...
BADGE: MIZUKI
...WHAT IS IT?
UM, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL...
水木
URGENT?
...YOU'RE AS QUICK AS EVER ...
...KANON.

JUST ABOUT, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE 100% SURE!
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY OF THEM!
WELL, DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT!!
WE CAN'T STORM IN LIKE THIS!!
HAVE ALL THE STUDENTS BEEN EVACUATED SAFELY!?
What is it, Wataya!?
I'm busy over here!
I'M SORRY!
BUT EVERY-THING'S GONE TO HELL OVER HERE!

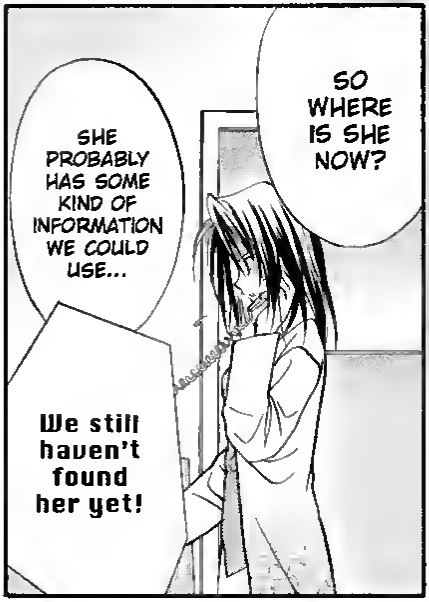
ステーション
At Tsukiomi High, a male student named Kanon Hilbert has taken another student hostage and holed up inside the school!
EH?
SIGN: [NURSE'S] STATION
AND THE HOSTAGE ...
...is your little brother, Lieutenant!!
THE PERPETRATOR ASSAULTED YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IN THE CAFETERIA AND SHOT HIM.
Your brother was unconscious, so he threw him over his shoulder and entered the school building while threatening those around him with a gun.
...WAS THE GUN...
... REAL ...?

When students and teachers came to deter him, the boy announced that he'd planted bombs in seven locations throughout the school.
What's more, he proclaimed himself one of the "Biade Children" and notified the police immediately on his cell phone!
YES.
HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE "WISHED TO HAVE A WORD WITH THE WATCHERS OF TSUKIOMI HIGH AND WOULD BE OPEN TO NEGOTIATION AFTER THAT."
...BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE "WATCHERS" ARE ALL ABOUT...
...so for the time being, we've gone ahead and contacted the school's representatives...
ANY CASUALTIES?
ZAWA (CHATTER)
WE'RE STILL EVACUATING THE REST OF THE STUDENTS, BUT, AS YET, THERE ARE NO FATALITIES.
NEXT TO NO INJURIES AS WELL.

Do you have any information?
THIS IS STILL UNCONFIRMED, BUT WHEN YOUR LITTLE BROTHER WAS SHOT, HE WAS CARRYING A GUN TOO.


BUT THEY'RE SAYING THAT AFTER HE WAS TAKEN AWAY, THAT GIRL WITH THE THE BRAIDS PICKED IT UP.

They say your little brother got shot in the right shoulder and has lost quite a bit of blood.
...SINCE HE'S A HOSTAGE, HE WON'T ALLOW HIM TO DIE THOUGH.


SO WHERE IS SHE NOW?
SHE PROBABLY HAS SOME KIND OF INFORMATION WE COULD USE...
We still haven't found her yet!

...GIRL WITH THE BRAIDS...

ANYWAY, EVERY-THING'S A MESS OVER HERE!
KACHA (CLACK)
.....
I'LL BE THERE SOON.
GYU (GRIP)
...GOT IT...
NOTHING'S OUT OF WHACK.
IT'S LIKE A GEAR SUDDENLY WENT OUT OF WHACK...
WHAT IS THIS ...?

I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP RIGHT THERE !!
YOU MUSTN'T MOVE ABOUT!
...EVERY-THING'S BEEN OUT OF WHACK FROM THE GET-GO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY SOME-THING'S OUT OF WHACK...
...IS KIYOTAKA-SAN INVOLVED IN THIS TOO?
YOU—
KANON'S CAUSED A REAL SCENE ON TSUKIOMI CAMPUS, HASN'T HE?

...YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY ALL OF THIS...
...IS LIKELY A PART OF THAT MAN'S PLAN.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TSUKIOMI HIGH, TAKE ME WITH YOU.
IT WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND, BUT THAT'S WHAT I'LL TAKE IN EXCHANGE.

...WILL YOU BE OKAY WITH THAT INJURY AND ALL?
I'M TIRED OF LIVING IN REGRET.
SO I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THIS HOLD ME BACK.
...YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF REGRET AS WELL.

第6 音楽室
SIGN: MUSIC ROOM #6
♪ ポロン
PORON (PLINK)
……WHAT'S THAT?
♪ ポロン
PORON
PIA…NO ……?
OH, THIS MELODY…
I KNOW IT…

UGH!
ZUKIN (THROB)
IT'S ALREADY PAST FOUR O'CLOCK.
GATA (CLATTER)
YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR A LONG TIME.

I WISH I COULD'VE SLEPT A LITTLE LONGER.
THAT AWFUL PIANO PLAYING WOKE ME UP.
I CAN'T HELP NOT BEING GOOD AT IT.
PATAN (SHUT)
ALL I REMEMBER IS A SONG EYES USED TO PLAY A LOT.
AND EVEN THEN, ONLY HALF OF IT.
WHEN EYES WOULD REALIZE I WAS THERE, HE'D STOP PLAYING THAT INSTANT.
HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE ME THE NAME OF IT.

...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE EXACTLY?
HM.
I'VE TAKEN YOU HOSTAGE AND BARRICADED US INTO THIS ROOM.
AND SINCE I TOLD THEM THAT I'VE PLANTED SEVEN BOMBS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, THE PLACE IS COMPLETELY EMPTY.
A GOOD NUMBER OF POLICE HAVE ALSO GATHERED HERE.
IT'S JUST THE KIND OF CHAOS I WAS AIMING FOR.
AND NOW...
...I'M THREATENING THE POLICE SO THEY LET ME HAVE A TALK WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WATCHERS.
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY TALKING TO THEM?

I'LL DEMAND THEY ASSEMBLE ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN OF TSUKIOMI HIGH IN THE THIRD GYMNASIUM.
THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW UP THE GYM...
...AND KILL THEM ALL OFF?
...SIMPLE, YES.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE.
MM-HMM!
PLAIN AND SIMPLE, EH?

THEN WHAT'LL YOU DO?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KILL THOSE BLADE CHILDREN WHO AREN'T IN THE SCHOOL.
HA (GASP)
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!
KANON IN AN UN-EXPECTED PINCH!
.....
.....
PAN (FLAP)

PATA
パタパタ
PATA (FLAP)
IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW!
OH WELL!
.....
IS THIS GUY OKAY?
HA! HA! HA!
カチャ
CHA (CLICK)
MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING, WING A, SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

HE REALLY DID SOMETHING CRAZY.....
THAT IDIOT, KANON.
...LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT HIDING ON THE SECOND FLOOR EITHER...
B-BUT HE ACHIEVED HIS GOAL, DIDN'T HE?
EVERY-ONE'S IN AN UPROAR ...
...AND HE'S THREAT-ENING THEM INTO COOPER-ATING.
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE HOW MANY PEOPLE HE'S GONNA TAKE WITH HIM.
BUT HE'S DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE HERE.

...BUT STILL...
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO STOP KANON BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, REMEMBER?
IT'LL BE A PAIN JUST LOCATING KANON.
...THIS HUGE CAMPUS IS A PROBLEM ALL ON ITS OWN.
THEY MUST BE UNDER PRESSURE RIGHT NOW.
...I DON'T THINK THE POLICE CAN MAKE A MOVE BEFORE THEN.
AND NOT KNOWING HIS LOCATION IS MAKING IT HARD FOR THE POLICE TO STORM IN TOO.
YOU FIGURE THEY'RE WEIGHING THEIR OPTIONS ...?

UNDER PRESSURE? FROM THE WATCHERS?
NOT THE WATCHERS, BUT...
...KIYO-TAKA-SAMA.
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FIGHT THAT WILL ENABLE HIS LITTLE BROTHER TO REACH THE CROSSROADS OF FATE.
SO THE POLICE WILL ONLY GET IN THE WAY.
THAT'S WHY HE'S IMMOBILIZING THEM.
KIYOTAKA-SAMA WOULD DO AS MUCH...

SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE THIS SITUATION ...
...IS GOING RIGHT ALONG WITH...
...KIYOTAKA'S PLANS, EH...?
NO MATTER WHAT, WE HAVE TO STAY AT OUR POSTS UNTIL INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE SAYING WE CAN'T MAKE A SINGLE MOVE!

EH?
AND THE MEDIA'S GOT ITS HANDS TIED TOO SO AS TO NOT CAUSE ANY TROUBLE!?
WAI— WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!!?
TO HAVE BOTH THE POLICE AND MEDIA ARE FROZEN...
WHAT'S GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES?
KANON HILBERT.
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

OH, PLEASE.
I'M ALWAYS BRIMMING WITH COURAGE.
...THAT SO?
YOU SURE THAT WHEN RUTHERFORD WOKE UP...
...YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT YOU WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A PUPPET BEING JERKED AROUND BY MY BROTHER?
GAN (STOMP)
KUH!!

EVEN IF KIYOTAKA IS A GOD, IT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S ALMIGHTY.
HE CAN'T CONTROL EVERYTHING.
...OH, BUT MY BROTHER CAN.
HE SEES INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS...
...AND MAKES THEM ACT AS HE WISHES.
MY BROTHER KNOWS WHAT TO DO TO MAKE YOU MOVE ACCORDING TO PLAN.

KANON...
HE KNOWS YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF.
...YOU CAN'T KILL RUTHERFORD.
.....IN FACT...
...YOU CAN'T KILL ANYBODY...
...EVEN SO...
KIYOTAKA CAN'T SAVE US.
SO ALL THE BLADE CHILDREN CAN DO IS DIE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
...IT'S NOT AS THOUGH KIYOTAKA CREATED OUR FATE.

BUT THEY WANT TO BE SAVED.

I HAD A RUN-IN WITH DESPAIR ...
...AND AT THAT MOMENT, I UNDER-STOOD...

JUST LIKE YOU USED TO, RIGHT?

...EYES KNEW FROM THE START.
HE KNEW THERE WAS NOTHING FOR US BUT TO DIE.

...THAT GOD HAD NOT BESTOWED HIS BLESSING UPON US.

EYES INCLUDED ...
...I'LL GIVE EVERYBODY A PEACEFUL DEATH.
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO DO IT.
BUT HE WAS TOO KIND AND DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOLVE FOR IT.
... ACTUALLY ...
...IS THAT THE CHOICE YOU MADE AS HIS BEST FRIEND?

...EYES IS MY "LITTLE BROTHER."
I'VE NEVER CALLED HIM THAT ...
...AND HE'S NEVER REALIZED IT HIMSELF...
...I GUESS I'D HAVE TO SAY I MADE THAT CHOICE AS HIS "OLDER BROTHER"?
...BUT SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART, I KNOW I'VE BEEN SPOILING HIM LIKE A BIG BROTHER WOULD...
SU (LIFT)

KATA (CLACK) カタ
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ASAZUKI AND THE OTHERS TO SHOW UP.
I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM A PROPER WELCOME.
YOU BE A GOOD HOSTAGE AND STAY PUT.
...HEY.
THE TITLE OF THAT SONG YOU WERE JUST PLAYING...
...WANT ME TO TELL YOU WHAT IT IS?

IT'S A FRANZ LISZT COMPO-SITION.
"POETIC AND RELIGIOUS HARMONIES," NUMBER THREE...
..."THE BLESSING OF GOD IN SOLITUDE."

...WHILE RUTHERFORD PLAYED THAT ALL ALONE...
...I WONDER WHAT WAS RUNNING THROUGH HIS HEAD...

.....
EVEN SO, I...
KURARI (SWIVEL)
...HAVE NO CHOICE.
KII (CREAK)
PATAN (SLAM)

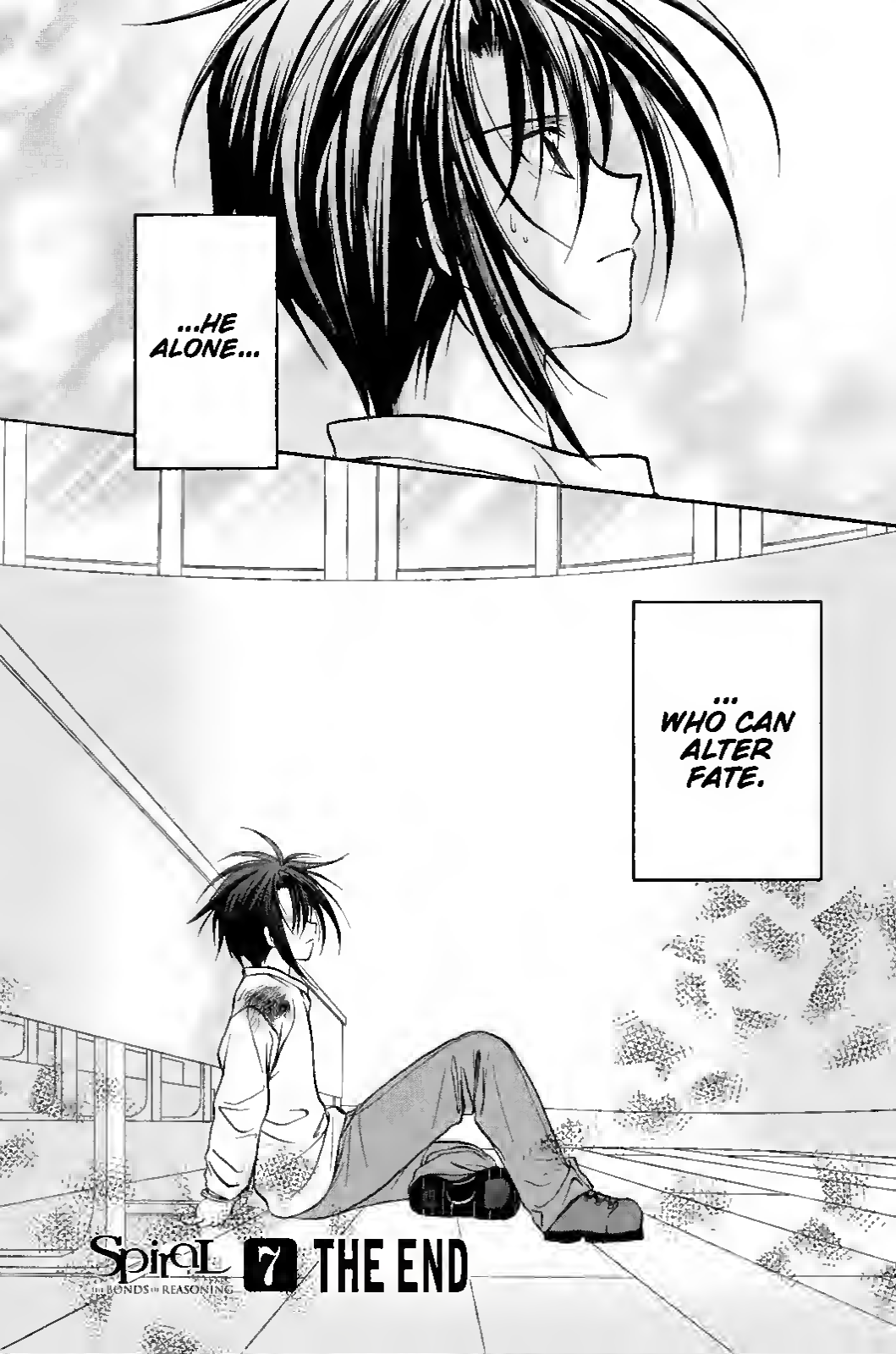
NOBODY...
...can win against my brother...
...or fate...
...SO THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR, EH...?
KANON SHOULD BE MAKING AN APPEARANCE SOON.

THIS IS SO MENTALLY EXHAUSTING...
I SURE WISH HE'D SHOW UP ALREADY.

SHIT!!
DUCK!!
DA
(BLAM)
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
PAN
PAN
(CRASH)
PAN
PAN
(DASH)
PARA
PARA
(TINKLE)

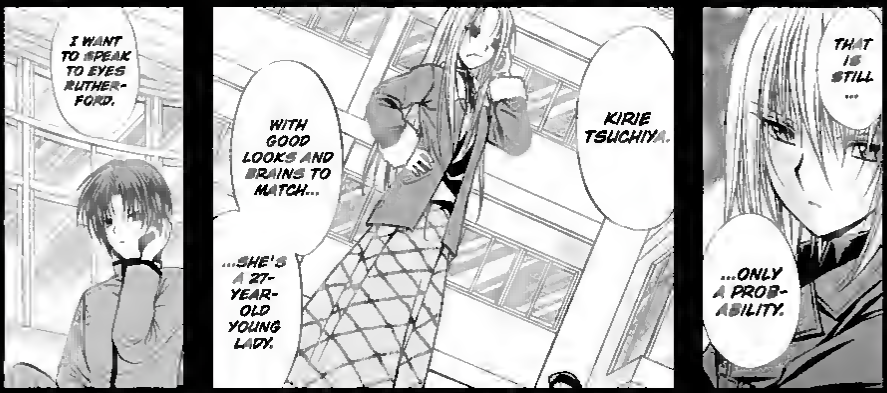
GOT IT!
LET'S DO THIS!!
HE'S COM-ING!
GET READY TO RETURN FIRE!!

BAN-
(SLAM)
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN WE GET TO TSUKIOMI HIGH?
...I INTEND TO GIVE HIM A RUDE AWAKENING, WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT...

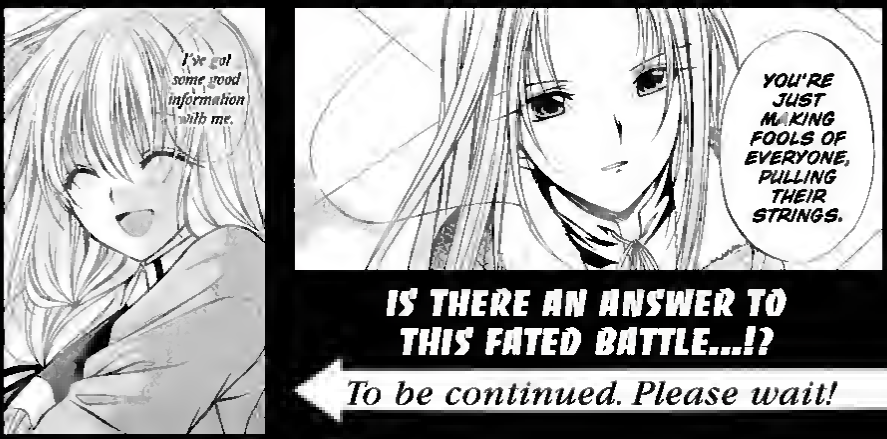

...HE ALONE...
...WHO CAN ALTER FATE.
SPIRAL 7 THE END
THE BONDS OF REASONING

IS IT OUR FATE TO HAVE TO FIGHT?

THE APPEARANCE OF A WATCHER BRINGS THE SITUATION TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.


I WANT TO SPEAK TO EYES RUTHERFORD.
WITH GOOD LOOKS AND BRAINS TO MATCH...
...SHE'S A 27-YEAR-OLD YOUNG LADY.
KIRIE TSUCHIYA.
THAT IS STILL ...
...ONLY A PROBABILITY.

A COMPLETE SCENARIO WROUGHT BY THE HAND OF GOD. WHAT IN THE WORLD...!?



IS THERE AN ANSWER TO THIS FATED BATTLE...!?

To be continued. Please wait!

SPIRAL WORK DIARY —SPECIAL PREVIEW(?)—

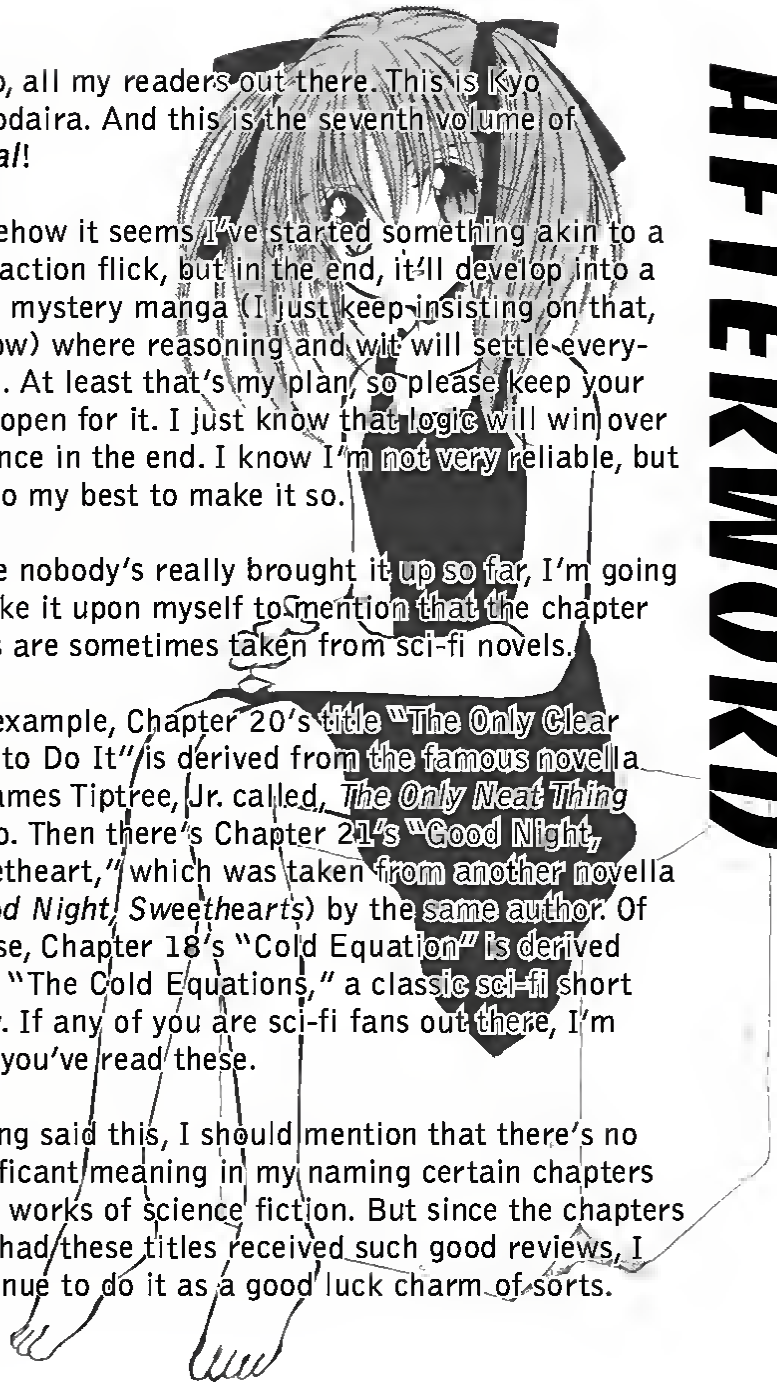
AT STUDIO SPIRAL, ENVELOPED IN A TENSION-FILLED ATMOSPHERE...

TIME TICKS BY CRUELLY.

WILL THE PAGES MAKE IT IN ON TIME!?

To be continued. JUST KIDDING.

AFTERWORD



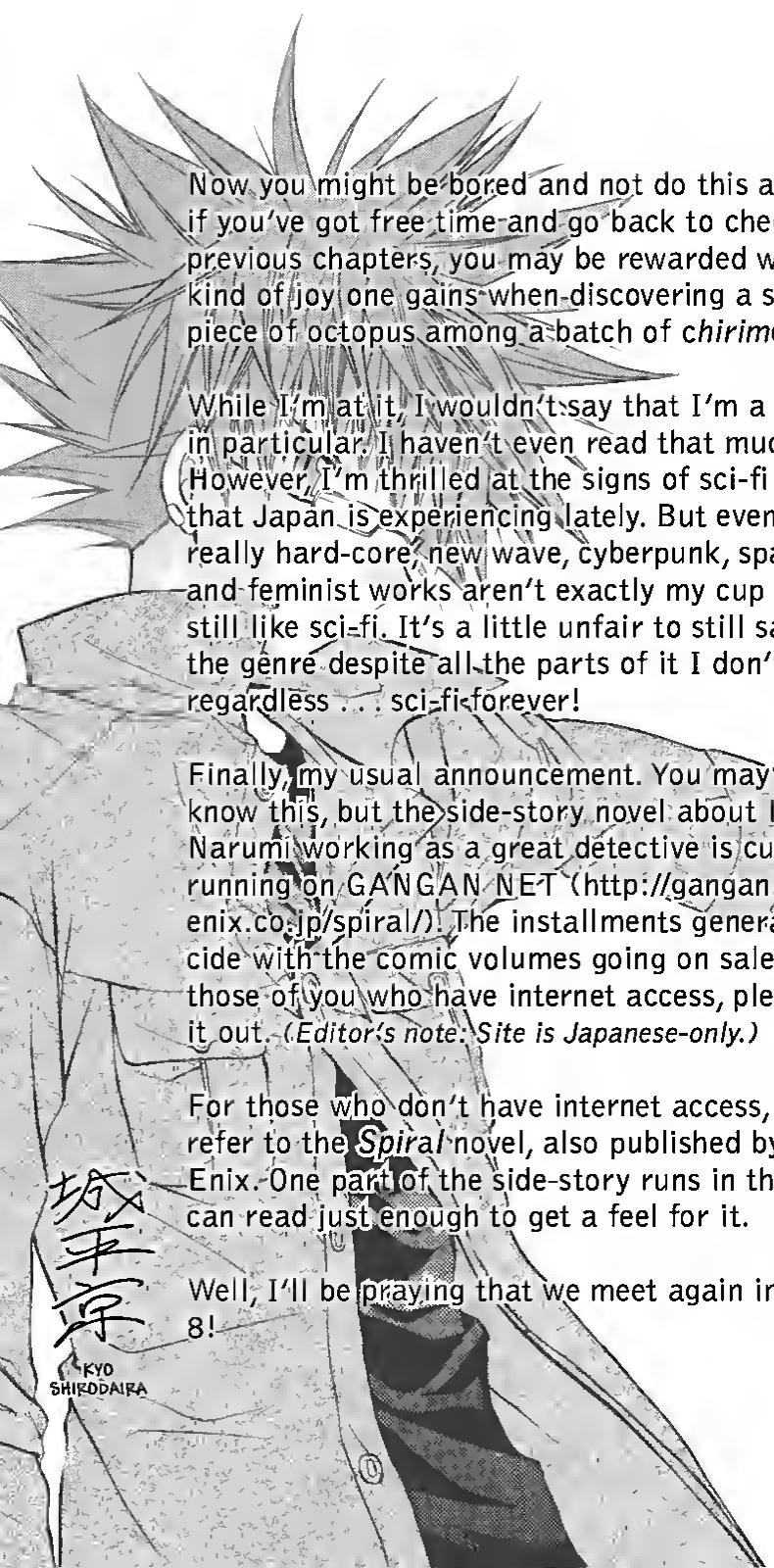
Hello, all my readers out there. This is Kyo Shirodaira. And this is the seventh volume of *Spiral*!

Somehow it seems I've started something akin to a "B" action flick, but in the end, it'll develop into a truer mystery manga (I just keep insisting on that, I know) where reasoning and wit will settle everything. At least that's my plan, so please keep your eyes open for it. I just know that logic will win over violence in the end. I know I'm not very reliable, but I'll do my best to make it so.

Since nobody's really brought it up so far, I'm going to take it upon myself to mention that the chapter titles are sometimes taken from sci-fi novels.

For example, Chapter 20's title "The Only Clear Way to Do It" is derived from the famous novella by James Tiptree, Jr. called, *The Only Neat Thing to Do*. Then there's Chapter 21's "Good Night, Sweetheart," which was taken from another novella (*Good Night, Sweethearts*) by the same author. Of course, Chapter 18's "Cold Equation" is derived from "The Cold Equations," a classic sci-fi short story. If any of you are sci-fi fans out there, I'm sure you've read these.

Having said this, I should mention that there's no significant meaning in my naming certain chapters after works of science fiction. But since the chapters that had these titles received such good reviews, I continue to do it as a good luck charm of sorts.



Now you might be bored and not do this at all, but if you've got free time and go back to check out my previous chapters, you may be rewarded with the kind of joy one gains when discovering a shrimp or piece of octopus among a batch of *chirimenjako*.

While I'm at it, I wouldn't say that I'm a sci-fi fan in particular. I haven't even read that much of it. However, I'm thrilled at the signs of sci-fi revival that Japan is experiencing lately. But even though really hard-core, new wave, cyberpunk, space opera, and feminist works aren't exactly my cup of tea, I still like sci-fi. It's a little unfair to still say I like the genre despite all the parts of it I don't, but regardless . . . sci-fi forever!

Finally, my usual announcement. You may already know this, but the side-story novel about Kiyotaka Narumi working as a great detective is currently running on GANGAN NET (http://gangan.square-enix.co.jp/spiral/). The installments generally coincide with the comic volumes going on sale, so for those of you who have internet access, please check it out. *(Editor's note: Site is Japanese-only.)*

For those who don't have internet access, please refer to the *Spiral* novel, also published by Square Enix. One part of the side-story runs in that, so you can read just enough to get a feel for it.

Well, I'll be praying that we meet again in Volume 8!

Spiral 7

THE BONDS OF REASONING

Omake!

TRANSLATION NOTES

p4
La Campanella also means "the little bell." It is the name ascribed to the last movement in Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 2, which Franz Liszt, who comes up in Chapter 36, would later borrow in order to create his own variations.

p24
Lolita complex (aka *lolicon*) is the Japanese term for an (often sexual) attraction to young girls.

p39
Chirimenjako are a type of tiny, dried sardine and are considered a source of calcium because the fish is consumed whole, bones and all.

p63
A **submachine gun** is actually an automatic firearm that uses pistol rounds. These are often stored in a **magazine**, which stores and feeds the ammunition into the weapon.

p86
A **Himalayan** is a type of Persian cat which is extremely fluffy and has blue eyes.

p99
When Ayumu says he's **"too slow to catch a cold,"** he's actually referencing a Japanese proverb which states, "idiots never catch colds" (because they're too stupid to realize when they've caught one).

p110
A **Mont Blanc** is a dessert of chestnut puree, shaped into a mountain and capped with whipped cream, which usually sits in a cup of meringue.

Spiral
THE BONDS OF REASONING

SPIRAL
The Bonds of Reasoning ⑦

Kyo Shirodaira
Eita Mizuno

Translation: Christine Schilling

Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

SPIRAL Vol. 7 ©2002 Kyo Shirodaira, Eita Mizuno/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2002 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD., and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2009 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of
Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-24168-7

App ISBN: 978-0-316-24169-4